

I have had many telemarketers call in the past. The single most common trait is that they still try to pitch their product when you tell them to remove you from their list. The second most common trait is that the same telemarketing company will call you again, even when told not to. They informed me that they removed me from that list, and will never call me on that particular product again. They make it intentionally difficult to make them go away.

I also think that more of an effort to inform the public needs to be made. Most I have talked to feel helpless when faced with telemarketers and junk faxers. A few radio and television spots informing the public of their rights would go a long way toward making the TCPA work as it should.

A national do-not-call list is a good idea. If we cannot get these practices outlawed or enforced properly, this is the next best thing. It needs the capability of entering multiple numbers, or blocks of numbers for those that possess many phones in their organization. Make no company exceptions, for any reason. Non-profit, political, commercial, or whatever. It needs to apply to all to work. Prior business contact needs to only have a note that contact pertaining to that item of business is not considered telemarketing/junk faxing. New items of business not pertaining directly to the prior contact are not exempt.

The time restrictions should be altered to fit most city ordinances pertaining to noise/disturbances. The average is 10:00am to 8:00pm.

Telemarketers should be required to provide correct and understandable caller ID. A set caller ID header such as "Telemarketer" or "Advertisement" would be a very good idea. Make filtering and blocking on the consumer side easy and effective. Prohibit any telemarketer from attempting to bypass filtering and blocking attempts.

Require that all telemarketers use a one person per call rule. No autodialers/computer generated calls. The person placing the call must initiate the call. This will eliminate dead calls and hang-ups, which are a major annoyance to most. Many people do not understand the source of these calls, and live in fear of a stalker or such that they perceive as calling them in harassment.

Also, prohibit any form of cellular calling. Cell phones reside in their own number blocks, and are easily separated from non-cell phones. There is no reason that a Telemarketer would be unable to distinguish these numbers from others.

Pre-recorded calls of ANY kind need to be prohibited. My phone was called several times every night by political messages. Any group that is made exempt can do this with no recourse from the victim. Eliminate group exemptions of all kinds. The law should show no preferences.

Many of the telemarketing calls that I received in the past years purported to be non-profit groups. As such they claimed they did not have to remove me or stop calling. Some recorded messages wanting me to donate to one group or another were also claiming exemption from the TCPA.

Override State and local level rules that mitigate the impact on telemarketers. Make the first offense actionable with mandatory state and local compliance. There are many areas that the telemarketers congregate due to the favorable laws, or refusal to "opt-in" to the TCPA. Florida (13th District) is one of (and the worst of) these areas.